BK Partner Usage Guide

What is BK Partner?

This is a software application for iPad, that lets you handily access and use essential functions belonging to the control panel of Roland's BK musical instruments (e.g. BK-3, BK-5, etc.).

When using BK Partner you can:

- Play your Roland musical instrument while using your iPad as a duplication of its front control panel to have a more comfortable and powerful access to all its functions regarding Tones and Rhythms;
- Select Performance Memories belonging to any of your Performance Lists;
- Type any text you may need to enter in your Roland BK musical instrument, by comfortably using the keyboard appearing in your iPad.

What do you need to use BK Partner?

MIDI cable connection

- ❑ A Roland instrument compatible with BK Partner App (e.g. BK-5).
  Refer to www.roland.com for information about the list of compatible instruments
- ❑ An Apple iPad Camera Connection Kit (Camera connectors made by Apple Inc.)
- ❑ A standard USB cable (type A–male - type B–male: commercially available)

Wireless connection

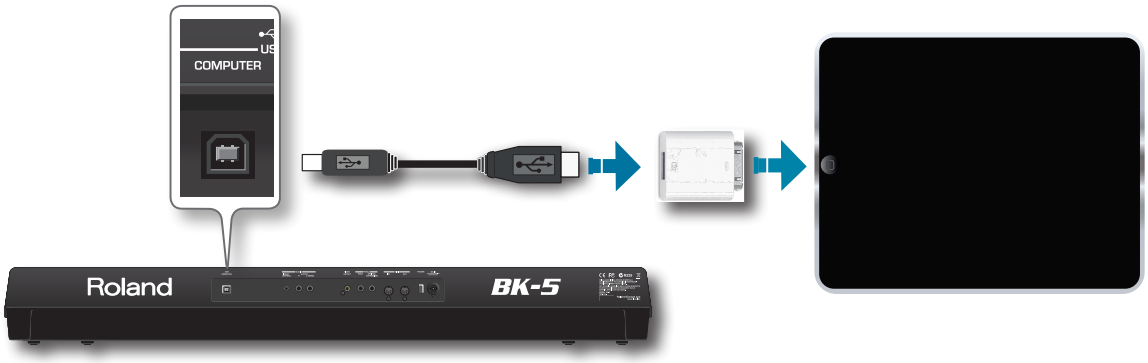
- ❑ A Roland instrument compatible with BK Partner App (e.g. BK-5) supporting also the wireless LAN function.
  For details on electronic musical instruments that support wireless LAN functionality, refer to the following URL:
  http://www.roland.com/products/WirelessConnect/
  Refer to www.roland.com for information about the list of compatible instruments for this application.
- ❑ A wireless USB adapter (Roland WNA1100-RL)
- ❑ A wireless LAN access point (such as a wireless LAN router) that supports WPS

Connecting your equipment

You can choose either a standard or a wireless connection between your iPad and your Roland musical instruments. You can connect several Roland musical instruments to your iPad, even though the interaction occurs only in one combination at a time.

MIDI cable connection

1. Connect your iPad with your Roland musical instrument (e.g. Roland BK-5) by using a USB iPad camera connector and a USB cable.



Wireless Connection

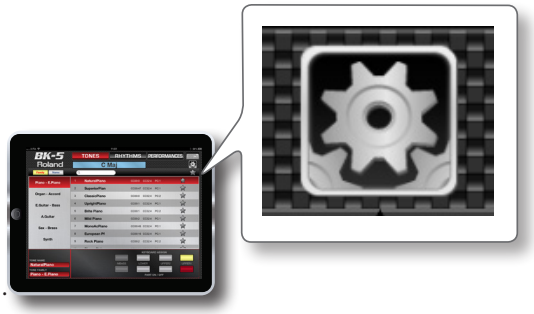
1. Simply connect the WNA1100-RL Wireless USB Adaptor to the USB port of your supported Roland instrument, and launch BK Partner.

Before You Start Using BK Partner

1. **Connect your Roland instrument and your iPad. See "Connecting your equipment" p. (1).**
2. **Turn your Roland instrument and your iPad on.**
3. **Press the BK Partner icon in your iPad to open this app.**
   BK Partner checks the available devices. At the end the following page appears:

This page shows the name of the connected Roland musical instrument at its top left corner.
If BK Partner finds no available device,

a. Press the [Options] button to check general settings and the available devices.



The following page appears:

If you didn't choose a MIDI cable connection, a list of available wireless devices is shown. If several Roland musical instruments having the same name are available for connection, everyone will be identified by a code number (e.g. BK-5_1, BK-5_2, BK-5_3, etc.).

4. **Select your desired device.**

If you choose a MIDI cable connection that instrument is automatically selected before all the others.

MEMO

To select another device press Options → MIDI Devices.

5. **Once you've selected your desired device (e.g. BK-5), your iPad automatically starts communicating with the selected Roland musical instrument, so as to read its whole Tone list, Rhythm list and Drum Kit list and to automatically start displaying them.**

NOTE

If you have already used BK Partner with that particular Roland instrument earlier on and if you are not sure whether that Roland instrument has been updated in the meanwhile, you need to make sure that BK Partner reads the latest Tones and Rhythms contained in that instrument.

So press Options → Force Update List.

Searching and Playing TONES

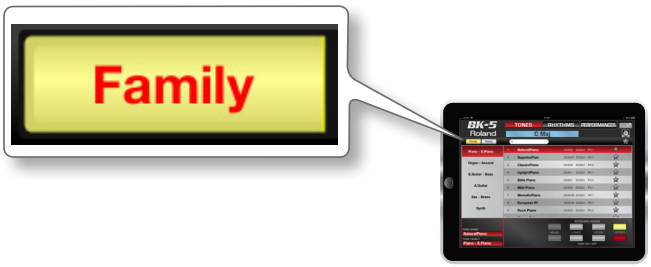
This app reproduces some portions of the control panel of your connected Roland musical instrument, so as to create a bidirectional communication between your iPad and your Roland musical instrument.

To select and play the Tones of your Roland instrument using BK Partner you have to:

1. **Press the [TONES] button in your iPad (If not already selected). The [TONES] button lights red.**

Searching by Tone Families

2. **Press the [Family] button to browse the tone families available in your Roland instrument (e.g. Piano - E.Piano) and choose a tone Family appearing below (left-hand column).**



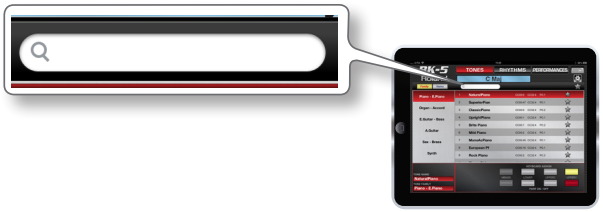
All tones belonging to the chosen family will be listed together with all their related information.

In fact, from the left to the right, you can see their progressive numbers, their names, their messages to recall them via MIDI, their favorite symbol [★].

NOTE

All Drum Sounds are grouped together at the end of the overall tone list.

3. **To find your desired tone, enter a tone name or just a part of it into the search field.**



4. **Press the tone field of your desired tone name and play it on your Roland musical instrument. The tone name and family you chose are displayed in the bottom left corner of your iPad screen page.**

Searching by Tone Names

5. **As an alternative searching method, press the [Name] button.**

The full list in alphabetical order of all the Tones available in your connected Roland musical instrument appears.

6. **Then you can either scroll the full Tone list or choose an alphabetical character on the left column and then select any Tone starting with it on the right column.**

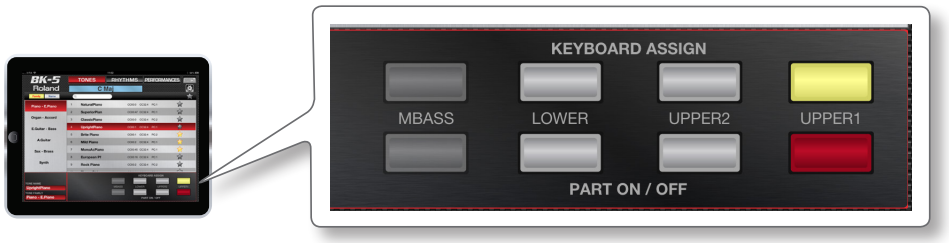
7. **Play your Roland musical instrument using the Tone you have just selected using BK Partner in your iPad.**

Playing real-time parts (Keyboard Assign)

Your Roland BK musical instrument contains different real-time parts. They can be Upper 1, Upper 2, Lower, Manual Bass.

Thanks to BK Partner you can use your iPad to swiftly choose which real time parts (e.g. Lower and Upper 1) you want to play in your Roland instrument (e.g. BK-5) and which sound ("Tone") you want to assign to every available real time part.

The keyboard assign controls in BK Partner include two button rows. The first row is aimed at choosing which part a certain tone will be assigned to. The second row is aimed at turning the chosen real-time part on or off.



1. **Press the button corresponding to your desired real-time part in the first row.**

This button becomes yellow.

2. **Select any desired tone in the overall tone list, so as to assign it to the chosen real-time part.**

3. **To turn that part on and let it play the tone you have just assigned to it, press the corresponding button in the second row.**

This button becomes red.

You are now ready to perform your music on your Roland musical instrument while playing only the real-time parts and tones that you need.

Your favorite Tones

If you wish, BK Partner allows you to mark some of the available Tones as your favorite ones. To do it, just

1. **Press the star icon in the corresponding tone line.**

The star icon becomes bright. Of course, you can mark several tones as your favorite ones. Your favorite tones can belong to both, a single family or different ones.

2. **Press the [Name] button and the star icon in the right top corner of the screen page, if you wish to see a list of all your favorite tones.**

The full list of all the tones you marked as your favorite ones appears

To search for one of them you can either enter its name (or part of it) in the search field or scroll the list.

NOTE

All favorite Drum Sounds are grouped together at the end of the overall favorite list.

Searching and Playing RHYTHMS

BK Partner lets you also comfortably search for the rhythms contained in your Roland musical instrument belonging to the BK series, so that you can quickly select and play them too. Every rhythm is typical for a certain musical genre, therefore they are all divided into families, just like Tones.

To select and play the Rhythms available in your Roland instrument using BK Partner you have to:

1. **Press the [RHYTHMS] button in your iPad (If not already selected). The [RHYTHMS] button lights blue.**

Searching by Rhythm Families

2. **Press the [Family] button to browse the Rhythm families available in your Roland instrument (e.g. Disco Dance) and choose a Rhythm Family appearing below (left-hand column).**

All rhythms belonging to the chosen family will be listed together with all their related information. In fact, from the left to the right, you can find their progressive numbers, their names, their Time Signature and tempo (bpm) values.

Searching by Rhythm Name

3. **As an alternative searching method, press the [Name] button.**

The full list in alphabetical order of all the Tones available in your connected Roland musical instrument appears.

Now you can sort out your desired rhythm by:

- Entering a rhythm name (or part of it) in the larger search field on the left
- Entering a Time Signature value in the smaller search field on the right

If you don't know exactly which rhythm is the most appropriate for your performance among all those available, but you are sure about the tempo value you need to

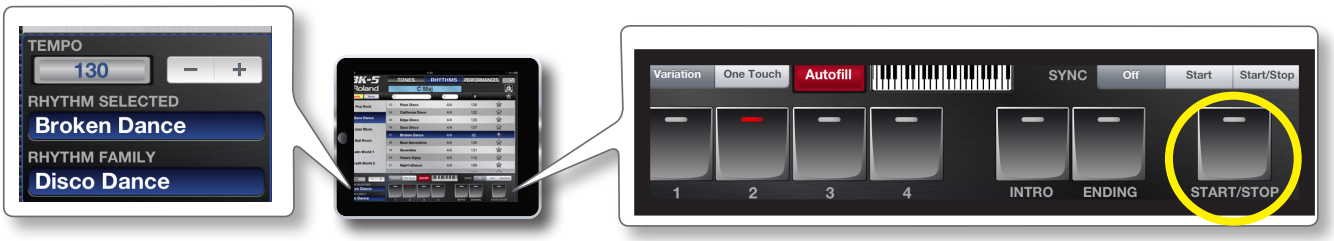
4. **Just press the arrow icon on top of the tempo value column.**

It becomes yellow and all the available rhythms will be arranged and displayed in their increasing tempo (bpm) order.

5. **Then, simply scroll and select your desired rhythm.**

The chosen rhythm and its corresponding family are shown in the bottom left corner of the screen page.

6. **Press the START/STOP button to start and stop the rhythm playback.**



Once you've selected your desired rhythm, BK Partner lets you also control it as in your Roland musical instrument. Since rhythms feature different complexity levels of melodic arrangement, BK Partner enables you also to control the following functions:

Function	Value	Explanation
Variation	1, 2, 3, 4	If you choose Variation 1, the rhythm function plays a simple accompaniment (usually with fewer instruments). If you choose the other VARIATIONs, the accompaniment becomes gradually more complex up to VARIATION 4, that plays the richest accompaniment. The currently playing rhythm variation has a red light indicator in its corresponding button. If the button light indicator is yellow, you selected it to be played as the next one.
Intro	On, Off	You can add an introduction to the chosen rhythm
Ending	On, Off	You can add a closing phrase to the chosen rhythm, thus avoiding to abruptly stop the rhythm playback.
Autofill	On, Off	If this function is on, the Roland musical instrument plays a transition before switching to the newly selected VARIATION pattern.
Tempo	default, 20-250	If necessary, you can change the tempo of your chosen rhythm by using the - / + buttons. To restore the default value, just press the tempo value button.
One Touch	OT1, OT2, OT3, OT4	There are four One Touch memories available for every rhythm. To select them see below.
SYNC	Off, Start, Start/Stop	You can also start (and stop) the playback of a rhythm simply by playing on the keyboard. Use these buttons in BK Partner on your iPad to turn this function on / off.

One Touch memories

BK Partner allows you to select also the One Touch memories related to the Rhythms in your Roland musical instruments. There are four One Touch memories available for every rhythm.

1. **Select the [One Touch] button in the bottom page section**

The underlying four control buttons [Variation 1, 2, 3, 4] change into four One Touch control buttons (OT1, OT2, OT3, OT4).

2. Use the OT1, OT2, OT3, OT4 buttons to choose any of the four available One Touch memories.

Your favorite Rhythms

If you wish, BK Partner allows you to mark some of the available Rhythms as your favorite ones.

1. Press the star icon in the corresponding rhythm line.

The star icon becomes bright blue. Of course, you can mark several rhythms as your favorite ones. Your favorite rhythms can belong to both, a single family or different ones.

2. Press the [Name] button and the star icon in the right top corner of the screen page, if you wish to see a full list of all your favorite rhythms.

The full list of all the rhythms you marked as your favorite ones appears.

3. Press the [Family] button and the star icon in the right top corner of the screen page, If you wish to see all your favorite rhythms belonging to the selected family.

Press again the star icon in the top right corner of the page to exit the list of your favorite rhythms.

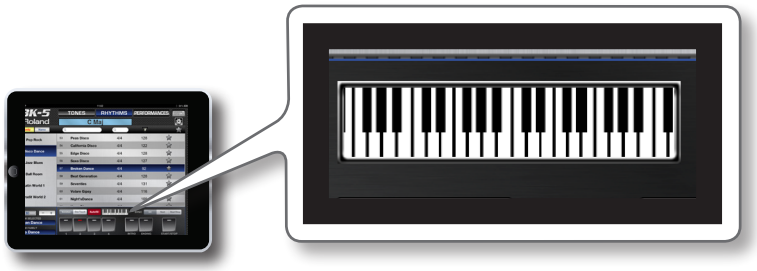
MEMO

If the arrow icon on top of the tempo value column is yellow, your favorite rhythms will be displayed according to the increasing order of their tempo values.

Easy control of the Backing section

If you wish, BK Partner allows you also to control the Backing section of your Roland musical instrument with all its related functions directly on your iPad.

1. Press the keyboard button in the bottom section of the RHYTHMS screen page.



A pop-up window will show a bigger keyboard portion:

2. Press the [Backing] button in the top left corner of the page, if it's not already selected.

3. Play any chord on the keyboard in your iPad and the central light blue rectangular field will show the name of the chords you are playing.

This means that the chords you are playing are recognized by the Roland instrument and displayed by BK Partner.

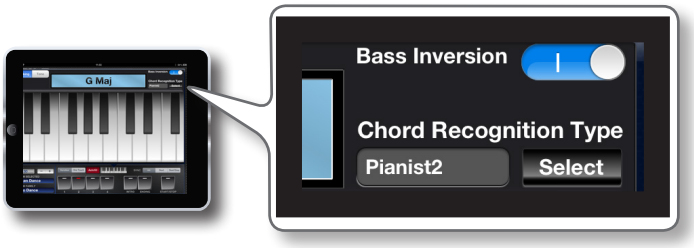
Moreover, BK Partner helps you using the Rhythms of your Roland musical instrument in an interactive manner: you can change the key of the accompaniment simply by playing different notes or chords on your Roland instrument as well as on your iPad.

NOTE

For a more comfortable playing experience with more fingers, please deactivate the Multitasking Gestures in the General Settings menu of your iPad

There are different types of Chord Recognition function, since you can choose how you want information related to the notes you are playing to be transmitted. To select a chord recognition type:

4. Press the [Select] button in the "Chord Recognition Type" top right area of the screen page and choose one of the available options (e.g. Standard, Pianist 1, Pianist 2, etc.).



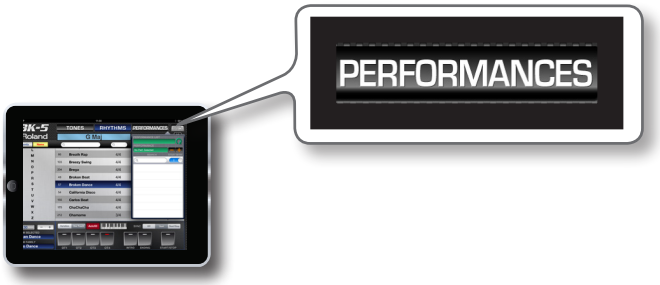
5. Press the keyboard button in the bottom section of the RHYTHMS screen page to exit this function.

Searching and Playing PERFORMANCES

BK Partner allows you to use your iPad to comfortably select and play Performance memories.

BK Partner displays all the Performances included in a Performance List that you have previously created using your Roland musical instrument. Since Performance Lists always reside on a USB memory, you need to have your USB memory inserted in your Roland musical instrument and to select one Performance List using its control panel. After that BK Partner will enable you to select and control any desired single Performance (belonging to the previously chosen Performance List) using your iPad.

1. Press the [PERFORMANCES] button in the top right corner of the screen page.



A pop-up window will appear:

2. If no Performance is shown as available for selection, select a Performance List in your Roland musical instrument. BK Partner will "read" it and will then display all Performances belonging to that set in your iPad.

3. **To select any desired Performance you can:**

- scroll the list and choose one;
- scroll the list using the - / + buttons;
- enter a word in the search field and choose your desired one among the results, whose names contain that word;
- set the "START WITH" switch on, enter a word in the search field and choose your desired one among the results whose names precisely start with that word.

4. **Use the Refresh button to update the contents of the chosen Performance List displayed in your iPad, if you have changed it somehow using your Roland musical instrument.**

Writing TEXT information

BK Partner includes the so-called "BK – TEXT INPUT" function, that comes in very handy every time you need to smoothly write some kind of text in your Roland musical instrument belonging to the BK series.

For example, you may need to write the name of a Performance memory, to rename a Performance List, to save a style in Makeup Tools, and so on.

To do it:

1. **Press the small keyboard button in top right corner of the screen page.**

A full keyboard will appear on your iPad: use it to smoothly type any kind of text you need to enter in your Roland BK musical instrument.

2. **To exit this function, press either the small keyboard button in top right corner of the screen page again or the key in the bottom right corner.**

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Unfortunately, it may be impossible to restore the contents of data that was stored in your iPad once it has been lost. Roland Europe assumes no liability concerning such loss of data.

- To avoid disturbing others nearby, try to keep the unit's volume at reasonable levels. You may prefer to use headphones, so you do not need to be concerned about those around you.

- The explanations in this manual include illustrations that depict what should typically be shown by the display.
  Note, however, that your unit may incorporate a newer, enhanced version of the system (e.g., song name), so what you actually see in the display may not always match what appears in the manual.

- In the interest of product improvement, the specifications and/or contents of this package are subject to change without prior notice.

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